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Fort Jay Honor Prison Turns Army's Discards Into Useful Citizens

Sentences Ignored and Men Fitted for Return to Colors or Civil Life.

HOW SYSTEM WORKS.

Self-Discipline and Training Free Prisoners at Rate of 160 a Month.

A prison where more than 50 per cent. of the inmates are not under lock and key and which is rapidly approaching a condition where none will be under guard is, to say the least, a novelty. A prison where the sentence of the offender has little effect on the time actually served

and where it is possible for a man ordered confined for five or ten years to become a citizen again in three months sounds almost too good to be true. Yet such an institution exists in New York and at this time shelter nearly 1,200 men. That institution is the Atlantic Branch of the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Jay, Governor's Island.

Two weeks ago, in the course of his testimony on charges of brutality in American prison camps in France, Lieut. "Hardboiled" Smith paid high praise to the spirit of the men in authority at Fort Jay. The former army officer, serving a term of eighteen months for mistreatment of soldier prisoners, vouchsafed the opinion that when a prisoner leaves the disciplinary barracks the treatment he has received there inspires him with a determination to return

to the world a better man for his experience.

That is the purpose that actuates Major John E. Hunt, the Commandant, in his splendid work. In an interesting outline of the prison policy, which, by the way, was printed by prisoners, the aim of the institution is succinctly set forth as follows:

"The treatment of the military offender in the Disciplinary Barracks has a two-fold object—first, to return him to the colors a better soldier, or, secondly, if unfitted for military service, to return him to civil life, if possible, a better citizen."

TURNED OUT 160 RECLAIMED OFFENDERS EVERY MONTH.

That Major Hunt and his earnest assistants are not falling short of their goal is attested by the fact that each month sees ten offenders returned to the colors after having been severely but fairly tested and 160 men discharged back into civil life.

The principle that guides the Commandant, a soft-spoken soldier whose kindly eye bespeaks his faith in his fellow man, is that no man has lost his value to society because he has been convicted by a court-martial and sentenced to confinement. Regardless of the man's past or his offense, once he reaches Fort Jay, Major Hunt and Major A. T. Baker, the sanguine surgeon in charge of psychiatric investigation, set to work to redeem him and to make him prove his right to be sent back to the ranks or civil life as far ahead of the

expiration of his sentence as his own trustworthiness will permit.

Duties are not routine affairs for the eighteen officers at the prison; they have a lofty task to perform, and their determination to perform that obligation well is manifest in their every word.

As soon as possible after the admission of a prisoner, machinery is set to work to learn everything pertinent to his past, his character, inclinations and home conditions. Letters requesting such information are sent to acquaintances of the convicted man, former teachers and employers and in the case of men with criminal records, the police. Information also is sought from the former commanding officer of the soldier. The Red Cross, through Major Warren McEllen, on duty at the prison, assists by ascertaining the conditions under which the soldier's family is living.

This investigation is not begun without the consent of the offender, and in all except about 2 per cent. of cases the consent is readily given. Among the 2 per cent. probably two-thirds have criminal records they wish to keep secret and the other one-third have only a short time still to serve and hope to avoid the publicity.

EVERY PRISONER FITTED INTO HIS PROPER PLACE.

A month or so serves to bring the required facts and then Major Baker and his staff have the prisoner brought before them for mental examination. This psychiatric investigation brings to light the mental status of the prisoner, his adaptability for certain kinds of duties and determines his fitness for speedy reformation. If a man is found feeble-minded and not a menace to society his discharge is recommended. In such a case the Red Cross takes care of his transportation back home and tries to find employment for him, as it does for other discharged men. Those men found to be insane are sent to Government asylums.

In this investigation it is borne in mind that many offenses are not necessarily due to vicious twists of character, but often spring from the men's maladjustment to military restrictions. It requires character to make a good soldier, and some men do not possess it.

The men with the best records are recommended for the Disciplinary Battalion, to which they are assigned by the Commandant. The battalion is like any other infantry organization save that its discipline is more rigid. It is removed from the general barracks population in quarters in three cantonment buildings, which are not barred or bolted and the men themselves mount guard. After three months of rigorous military duties men found qualified are recommended for restoration to the colors and their dishonorable discharges are lifted.

Those prisoners not recommended for the battalion are subdivided and assigned to duties commensurate to their abilities and experience. Nor is it a case of duties merely for education is provided for those in need of it, and fully 40 per cent. show the need of it. The educational work is under the direction of A. W. Baylis, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. on the island, and several of the prisoners themselves are instructors. All sorts of subjects are taught, up to applied electricity, and it is the hope of the Commandant and the men to establish an automobile school.

Recreation is not overlooked and there is plenty of opportunity for play and entertainment of various sorts are given. There is a band of music, largely composed of inmates of the institution, and frequent concerts are given in the "bull ring" at Camp Williams (the main building) and for the battalion's formal guard mount and parades.

THE HONOR ASSOCIATION AND ITS UNGUARDED MEMBERS.

No account of the Disciplinary Barracks would be complete without mention of the Honor Association, an organization that strikingly exemplifies Major Hunt's faith in his charges. The idea of putting the men on their honor originated among the men themselves and the Commandant readily assented to it when the subject was broached to him.

The association guarantees good conduct in return for certain privileges, and it is jealous of its reputation. Every new arrival is met by a member of the association, who acquaints him with the advantages of becoming a member. The association has its own constitution and regulations, and weekly meetings are held. There is a Sergeant-at-Arms charged with the keeping of good order and the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

The members are honor bound to report infractions of regulations and have a tribunal of their own before which offenders are tried. So determined is the association to uphold its reputation that certain offenders have been sent to the general prison (composed of commissioned officers) because they held that the Prison Court was less severe than the Honor Tribunal. Therefore the Honor Association requested that the Prison Court sentences be made as severe as those meted out by the prisoners.

As a result of this system gambling has been eliminated and the number of trials by the Prison Court has decreased 75 per cent.

Castle Williams, the main prison structure, was built in 1890. On its ramparts are retained the old musket-loading, smooth bore cannon of bygone days. As a prison, the fort should accommodate 600 men, but the admission of nearly 1,200 men has caused Major Hunt to stretch out. Besides the three buildings in which the battalion is quartered, Major Hunt is utilizing another barracks building for 200 men. This barracks is known as the "Annex" and is practically under complete charge of one of the prisoners. All of its inmates are honor men and are not watched by sentinels, and the place is one of the neatest and most orderly on the island. There are also 550 tents, occupied by prisoners.

This lack of space has made it difficult for the officers to accomplish the results attained, but the freedom from restraint it has brought helps to justify the confidence Major Hunt has placed in the uprightness of the men, even though it offers him a problem in how to take care of his growing command.

United Jewish Building Fund Is Now Nearly \$200,000.

Col. H. A. Quinburg, Chairman of the Campaign Committee, announced the receipt yesterday of additional subscriptions totalling \$250,000 for the United Building Fund Campaign of the United Jewish Building Fund. The subscriptions vary in amounts from \$50,000 contributed by Nathan Rothschild, to \$100 from Raphael Hurwitz. This brings the present total of subscriptions to almost \$2,000,000.

CRAZE FOR GAMBLING SPREADS IN GERMANY

Bad Nauheim Becomes Second Monte Carlo for Those Who Made Fortunes in War.

FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN, July 30 (Associated Press).—Gambling is on the increase throughout Germany, according to German newspapers. This is said to be due partly to the high living of individuals who made fortunes during the war by Government contracts or otherwise. At Bad Nauheim three gambling houses have been running day and night for some time and the Ger-

man newspapers refer to the place as a second Monte Carlo.

"The demoralizing effect of the three gambling resorts erected in Bad Nauheim during the period of the Soldiers' Council," says the Frankfurter Zeitung, "is now seen in its grossest form. Following the scene of a week ago when a summer guest threw his revolver in the center of the gambling hall at the Villa Helldorff after losing 20,000 marks in an hour, another guest, said to be from Frankfurt, was found murdered in one of the parks. The investigating committee summoned from Gießen ascertained that the murderer had been committed by a chief. The murdered man had won 70,000 marks at the "Club 1313" in the Grand Hotel on the night he was killed. On the way to his quarters he was shot in the back and all his money stolen.

"At the Bristol Hotel it is said that a German woman recently lost 25,000 marks by gambling, and could not pay her hotel bill, so that she was obliged

to auction her clothing and furniture."

Another man from Frankfurt lost 25,000 marks one Sunday afternoon at the Villa Helldorff, and a few days before another guest lost as much as 100,000 marks.

LEFT \$55,000, BUT NO WILL.

Widow of A. C. Blum Does Not Wish to Marry Again.
Contrary to the usual custom of having that letters of administration be granted to the widow, Mrs. Martha Jane Blum, of No. 33 Morningstar Drive, today petitioned the Surrogate's Court to have William Hall Campbell and Walter D. Simpson appointed administrators of the estate of her husband, Adolph C. Blum, former general sales manager of the Acta Explosive Co., who died July 12 last.

According to the petition, Mr. Blum left personal property valued at \$55,000 but no will.



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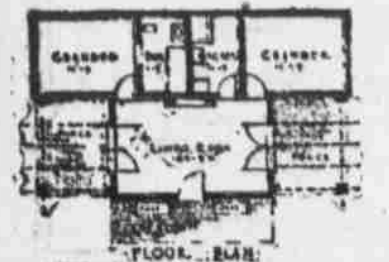
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Judging from the countless preparations and treatments which are continually being advertised for the purpose of making thin people fleshy, reducing ugly hollows and smoothening the soft curved lines of health and beauty, there are evidently thousands of men and women who keenly feel their exclusive thinness. Thinness and weakness are often due to starved nerves. Our bodies need more phosphate than is contained in modern foods. It is claimed there is nothing that will supply this deficiency so well as the organic phosphate known among druggists as bitter-phosphate, which is in essence and in kind, by the action of the Penn. Station Pure Phosphate, Hagerstown, Gray, Perry, Union Square Pharmacy and most all druggists under a guarantee of satisfaction or money back. By feeding the nerves directly and by supplying the body cells with the necessary phosphoric food elements bitter-phosphate should produce a welcome transformation in the appearance: the increase in weight frequently being noticeable. Increase in weight also carries with it a general improvement in the health. Nervousness, sleeplessness and lack of energy which usually attend thinness, should soon disappear. Gull eyes ought to brighten and pale cheeks glow with the bloom of perfect health. CAUTION—While Bitter-Phosphate is unsurpassed for the relief of nervousness, general debility, etc., those taking it who do not desire to put on fat should use extra care in avoiding fat-producing foods.—Adv.



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It improves a poor complexion and preserves a good one, so that you need no artificial means to enhance your attractiveness. At the first sign of skin irritation, of a blotch or a pimple, itching or burning, apply Resinol promptly. It contains harmless, soothing balsams, and is so nearly flesh colored that it may be used on exposed surfaces without attracting undue attention. Your dealer sells it.

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WORK MONDAY WONDERS



Touch Tender Spots With Cuticura After Shaving

After shaving with Cuticura Soap the Cuticura war, without any, gently rub tender spots on face or dandruff on scalp with a bit of Cuticura Ointment. Then wash all off with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Rinse with tepid water. Finally dust on a little Cuticura Talcum.

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